

LESSON TITLE: GROUP LEADERSHIP PROBLEM (GLP) #2

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

GLPs are designed to build leadership and teamwork skills. These skills are important for everyone regardless of whether or not they continue in CAP.

TEACHING METHOD: Informal Lecture and Student Exercises

CONTACT HOURS: 1 Hour

READING:

A Handbook of Structured Experiences for Human Relations Training, Vol IV, edited by J. William Pfeiffer, 1974

READING RATIONALE:

Many GLPs have been adapted from this source. This is a reading that may help the instructor prepare for this lesson.

MATERIALS REQUIRED: A ball or other convenient hand held object

LESSON OUTLINE:

Strategy: Students will work as a team, communicate as part of the process, and complete one of the three provided group leadership problems (each GLP takes approximately 1 hour to complete).

Process: The instructor directs the students to form groups of 6-12 students. A single group may be formed or multiple groups may participate simultaneously. If multiple groups are used, the instructor may appoint observers for each group. The instructor should have a ball or hand held object for each group.

The instructor explains that in the following discussion session, the manner in which the participants interact will be limited. He/she tells them that possession of the ball (or designated object) that he/she is holding will determine who may speak. The instructor further explains that the participant with the ball must keep it until someone signals through nonverbal communication that they wish to have it. The individual holding the ball may refuse to give it to a member who requests it.

The instructor announces a topic for the group to discuss. It is important that the topic has the potential to generate significant interaction among the individuals. Possible topics might include: women in combat, use of military forces for peace keeping, free speech/flag burning, etc.

The instructor starts the discussion by handing the ball to a member of the group. The instructor ends the discussion after 15-20 minutes.

The instructor then leads a short discussion on what they observed. The instructor should focus on the use of power, frustration involved in gaining or retaining power, communication processes, etc.

Variations – 1) The instructor may choose to start the activity by placing the ball in the center of the group rather than giving it to an individual. 2) Two balls or objects may be used for each group. 3) A ball of string may be used and unwound as it passes to group members. This would leave a communication trail and reveal levels of participation by group members.

This GLP was adapted from HQAFROTC's Curriculum Department, Maxwell AFB, AL